

**IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL
COOPERATION GOAL
PART A**

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

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2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Key information on the implementation of the cooperation programme for the year concerned, including on financial instruments, with relation to the financial and indicator data.

The Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme 2014 – 2020 was approved by the EU Commission on the 16th December 2014. To ensure a strong implementation right from start, the first call was opened in the autumn 2014.

In February 2016, the Monitoring Committee approved five projects from the third call, bringing the number of approved projects to 25. Out of these 25 a total of 21 projects had been contracted by the end of 2016. The financial tables in the AIR are based on these 21 projects.

The fourth call was launched in May. To support project applicants, two “How to Apply” seminars were held, in June and September. The deadline for the fourth call was postponed with two months due to the uncertainty caused by the results of the United Kingdom referendum in June to leave the European Union. By the call deadline a record number of 37 admissible applications were received.

As there was only one open call in 2016, fewer projects were approved during the year compared to the year before. In total, 3 main projects and 17 preparatory projects were contracted by the Managing Authority in 2016 and in total 22 838 744 Euro or 41,4% of the total NPA funding for projects was allocated by the end of the year.

The allocation is unevenly distributed across the different funding sources. Thus, 38% of the ERDF funding was committed, while 62% of the Norwegian, 60% of the Icelandic, 33% of the Faroe Islands and 91% of the Greenlandic funding was committed. This indicates that the ERDF-equivalent sources might be fully used at a relative early stage of the programme implementation.

After the three first calls, the partners are very well distributed across the three geographical zones of the programme area: 61 partners in Finland, Sweden and Norway, 52 partners in Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland and 20 partners in Greenland, Iceland and Faroe Islands, and other countries 9. When looking at the geographical distribution of Lead Partners, the distribution between the three zones is more uneven.

The 21 main projects and 29 preparatory projects contracted by the Managing Authority are distributed unevenly seen in relation to the four programme priority axes. The most popular theme is Axis 1 (Innovation) where 10 main projects and 9 preparatory projects, or 56% of the ERDF funding was approved. Axis 2 (Entrepreneurship) follows with 7 approved main projects and 6 preparatory projects or 42% of the ERDF funding. Axis 3 (Energy) and Axis 4 (Sustainability) have 2 approved main projects and 7 preparatory projects each and a commitment rate of 23% and 19% respectively. The Monitoring Committee decision that the Third Call should open only for applications addressing priority axis 3 and 4 contributed to reducing the gap between priority axes 1 and 2.

In addition to the four priority axes, the NPA also addresses the “Arctic Dimension” as a cross cutting theme. The Arctic Dimension is addressed by including partners from the Arctic part of the Programme Area, which is the case in 19 out of the 21 NPA main projects. Furthermore, all 19 projects support cooperation, innovation and transfer of knowledge, and technology within themes of specific significance for the Arctic territories. NPA projects shall foster changes that are of importance to people, including indigenous peoples, living in the Arctic area. Whether the approved projects in specific foster these changes is too early to say at the current stage of the

programme implementation. The European Commission joint communication "An integrated European Union policy for the Arctic" mentions the NPA programme's role in leading a pilot activity aiming at bringing together a network of managing authorities and stakeholders from various regional development programmes in the European part of the Arctic. An informal dialogue with other EU-funded cooperation programmes was started already in 2015 and the collaboration was further deepened in 2016.

Distance and costs are often obstacles to the development of a strong and well balanced project partnership, especially in a large and dispersed area. Preparatory projects are a programme specific tool developed to bring potential project partners together, and to generate high-quality main project applications. Since the launch of preparatory projects, a total of 67 preparatory project applications have been received, of which 29 have been approved by the Secretariat and contracted by the Managing Authority. In 2016 the number of incoming applications decreased somewhat compared to the previous year.

In terms of monitoring results at programme level, result indicators, baseline values and targets for the six programme specific objectives were developed and approved by the Monitoring Committee during 2015.

Due to the lack of data covering the programme area, the Programme has decided to work with panels of regional experts, who were asked to describe and assess the regional status-quo in quantitative and qualitative terms in 2015 (baseline values), and then to assess the progress towards the achievement of objectives in 2017, 2019 and 2023. Rather than monitoring the entire programme area, a sample of three regions, defined on NUTS3 level, was selected and an expert panel was constituted for each of the six result indicators.

The baseline assessment provides the NPA Programme with a rich data set covering various quantitative-qualitative dimensions that give a detailed and varied picture of the status quo in the sample regions as a basis for monitoring the impact of the Programme's interventions. The 2017 update of the baseline values for the result indicators shows that most of the values have developed in line with the expectations in 2015. Even though three out of 6 values are a little below the expectations the regional experts are still optimistic with regard to reaching the target values in 2023. For one indicator (4) the 2017-update is higher than expected. For this indicator, the regional experts state that even though the overall situation has not changed much since 2015, some important steps have been taken in one of the three regions concerning international cooperation in relation to climate change adaptation.

In terms of output indicators, two common indicators have been selected for priority axis 1 and 2. One common indicator has been selected for Priority axis 3 and a programme specific output indicator has been selected for Priority axis 4. As illustrated in table 2, the expectations of projects at application stage are very high in relation to the target values set out for the programme. Partly these high values are related to different understandings of definitions in the output indicators, the values are therefore expected to decrease somewhat once projects are finalized. One of the output indicators has not been addressed by any of the projects, this has therefor been high-lighted in the fourth call which will be decided in 2017.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

3.1 Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
1	Using Innovation to Maintain and Develop Robust and Competitive Communities	<p>Five main projects have been approved in relation to Specific Objective 1.1 (Increased innovation and transfer of new technology to SMEs) under Priority Axis 1. The supported projects are in general addressing 5 out of 8 prioritised actions mentioned in the Cooperation Programme document. Three prioritised actions are not addressed: Projects addressing clustering of SMEs in order to develop critical mass to access R&D, facilitating business networks across regional and national borders, developments in relation to marine and maritime sectors and developments in relation to cold climate and natural resources. These gaps have been addressed in the 4th Call, decided in 2017.</p> <p>Five main projects are addressing Specific Objective 1.2 (Increased innovation within public service provision) under Priority Axis 1. The supported projects are in general addressing 2 out of 3 prioritised actions mentioned in the Cooperation Programme document. The third prioritised action is about viability and low critical mass in public service provisions. This gap has been addressed in the 4th Call decided in 2017.</p>
2	Promoting Entrepreneurship to Realise the Potential of the Programme Area's Competitive Advantage	<p>Four main projects are addressing Specific Objective 2.1 (Improved support systems tailored for start-ups and existing SMEs) under Priority Axis 2 and no bigger gaps can be identified within the Specific Objective.</p> <p>Three main projects are addressing Specific Objective 2.2 (Greater market reach beyond local market for SMEs under Priority Axis 2. Two out of three prioritised actions in the Cooperation Programme are in general addressed by the supported projects. The not addressed action is about greater market reach beyond local market for SMEs. This gap has been addressed in the 4th Call decided in 2017.</p>
3	Fostering Energy-Secure Communities through Promotion of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	Two main projects have been approved in this Priority Axis. One other project was prioritized by the Monitoring Committee in 2016 but only received their formal grant offer letter early in 2017. When including also this project in the analysis, the supported projects are in general addressing all three types of prioritised actions mentioned in the Cooperation Programme document. However, the use of ICT technologies, such as new energy efficiency concepts is not covered by the supported projects. The 4th Call, decided in 2017, has addressed this gap.
4	Protecting, promoting and developing cultural and natural heritage	Two main projects have been approved in this Priority Axis. Another three projects were prioritized by the Monitoring Committee in 2016 but only received their formal grant offer letter early in 2017. When including also these projects in the analysis, the supported projects are in general addressing 3 out of 5 prioritised actions mentioned in the Cooperation Programme document while two actions are not or only partly covered. The two not addresses actions are about "up-skilling" local authorities and pooling competences across borders with the aim to enhance skills and competences in relation to climate change and environmental, social and economic impact of big investments. The 4th Call, decided in 2017, has addressed these gaps.

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
5	Technical Assistance	<p>In 2015 the program administration started reporting in the new NPA 2014-2020 programme gradually.</p> <p>The Technical Assistance budget consists of the below programme bodies and cost items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint Secretariat - Managing Authority - Certifying Authority - Audit Authority - MC meetings - Regional Contact Points - Greenland Travel Fund - Other costs (including seminars and networks, promotion material, partenariats, IT, database and monitoring system and evaluation) <p>All cost related to technical assistance are transmitted into the accounts of and reported by the Managing Authority.</p> <p>In the first years of NPA 2014-2020 implementation, the NPP 2007-2013 budget was used for the programme closure. This fact, in combination with vacancies at the Managing Authority, delayed invoicing from some of the programme bodies and the development of the monitoring system (eMS) have contributed to an underspending in 2016.</p> <p>The spending for Technical Assistance is expected to be accurate over time.</p> <p>The development of eMS has been a large task in 2016 and by the end of 2016 project applicants applied online, the eligibility check, appraisals by Regional Advisory Groups, the quality assessment and the contracting took place in the system. Furthermore the reporting and other modules to process and pay project claims were in place and the first payments were made in November 2016. The level of payments is at a satisfactory stage at the end of 2016 and the rate of payments is expected to increase during the coming year since the systems are now in place.</p> <p>There have not been any problems experienced in relation to TA expenditure.</p>

3.2 Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority axis	1 - Using Innovation to Maintain and Develop Robust and Competitive Communities
Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 1.1b

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	32.00	0.00	
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	32.00	50.00	
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	16.00	0.00	
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	16.00	79.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support		0.00
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support		50.00
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions		0.00
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions		49.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	1 - Using Innovation to Maintain and Develop Robust and Competitive Communities
Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies
Specific objective	1.1 - Increased innovation and transfer of new technology to SMEs in remote sparsely populated areas

Table 1: Result indicators - 1.1b.1.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
1.1	Degree of transnational collaboration between SMEs and R&D	Composite index aggregating sub-indicators from a scoreboard	100.00	2015	181.70	107.80		In line with expectations for 2016, but slightly below the target value.

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.1	Degree of transnational collaboration between SMEs and R&D				

Priority axis	1 - Using Innovation to Maintain and Develop Robust and Competitive Communities
Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies
Specific objective	1.2 - Increased innovation within public service provision in remote, sparsely populated areas

Table 1: Result indicators - 1.1b.1.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
1.2	Awareness and attitudes among health professionals towards the use of eHealth technologies	Composite index aggregating sub-indicators from a scoreboard	100.00	2015	293.10	128.10		In line with expectations for 2016, but slightly below the target value.

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.2	Awareness and attitudes among health professionals towards the use of eHealth technologies				

Priority axis	2 - Promoting Entrepreneurship to Realise the Potential of the Programme Area's Competitive Advantage
Investment priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 2.3a

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	16.00	0.00	
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	16.00	510.00	
F	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Enterprises	8.00	0.00	
S	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Enterprises	8.00	67.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support		0.00
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support		510.00
F	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products		0.00
S	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products		67.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	2 - Promoting Entrepreneurship to Realise the Potential of the Programme Area's Competitive Advantage
Investment priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
Specific objective	2.1 - Improved support systems tailored for start-ups and existing SMEs in remote and sparsely populated areas

Table 1: Result indicators - 2.3a.2.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
2.1	Conditions for start ups in remote and sparsely populated areas	Composite index aggregating sub-indicators from a scoreboard	100.00	2015	132.70	99.20		In line with expectations for 2016.The uncertainty of the method is greater than the actual change.

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.1	Conditions for start ups in remote and sparsely populated areas				

Priority axis	2 - Promoting Entrepreneurship to Realise the Potential of the Programme Area's Competitive Advantage
Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 2.3d

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	16.00	0.00	
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	16.00	35.00	
F	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Enterprises	8.00	0.00	
S	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Enterprises	8.00	0.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0.00	
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	35.00	
F	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	0.00	
S	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	0.00	

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	2 - Promoting Entrepreneurship to Realise the Potential of the Programme Area's Competitive Advantage
Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
Specific objective	2.2 - Greater market reach beyond local markets for SMEs in remote and sparsely populated areas

Table 1: Result indicators - 2.3d.2.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
2.2	Awareness of the business opportunities beyond local markets	Composite index aggregating sub-indicators from a scoreboard	100.00	2015	139.50	102.80		In line with expectations for 2016, but slightly below the target value.

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.2	Awareness of the business opportunities beyond local markets				

Priority axis	3 - Fostering Energy-Secure Communities through Promotion of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
Investment priority	4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 3.4c

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households	250.00	0.00	
S	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households	250.00	4,515.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	0.00	
S	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	0.00	

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	3 - Fostering Energy-Secure Communities through Promotion of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
Investment priority	4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector
Specific objective	3 - Increased use of energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions in housing and public infrastructures in remote, sparsely populated areas

Table 1: Result indicators - 3.4c.3

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
3	Awareness of energy efficiency opportunities and renewable solutions in housing sector and public infrastructures in remote and sparsely populated areas	Composite index aggregating sub-indicators from a scoreboard	100.00	2015	111.10	103.00		No new data, however, the observed trend in at least one of the three regions is positive.

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
3	Awareness of energy efficiency opportunities and renewable solutions in housing sector and public infrastructures in remote and sparsely populated areas				

Priority axis	4 - Protecting, promoting and developing cultural and natural heritage
Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 4.6c

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	11.00	0.00	
S	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	11.00	28.00	
F	4	Number of organisations introducing a decision-making tool or governance concept facilitating sustainable environmental management	Organisations	22.00	0.00	
S	4	Number of organisations introducing a decision-making tool or governance concept facilitating sustainable environmental management	Organisations	22.00	26.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	0.00	
S	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	0.00	
F	4	Number of organisations introducing a decision-making tool or governance concept facilitating sustainable environmental management	0.00	
S	4	Number of organisations introducing a decision-making tool or governance concept facilitating sustainable environmental management	0.00	

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	4 - Protecting, promoting and developing cultural and natural heritage
Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
Specific objective	4 - Increased capacity of remote and sparsely populated communities for sustainable environmental management

Table 1: Result indicators - 4.6c.4

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
4	Preparedness of responsible authorities in remote, sparsely populated areas for environmental management in relation to climate change and impacts of new investments in the exploitation of natural resources	Composite index aggregating sub-indicators from a scoreboard	100.00	2015	131.30	114.60		Above expectations for 2016. This is mainly due to that important steps have been taken in one of the three regions concerning international cooperation in relation to climate change adaptation.

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
4	Preparedness of responsible authorities in remote, sparsely populated areas for environmental management in relation to climate change and impacts of new investments in the exploitation of natural resources				

Priority axes for technical assistance

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance
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Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 5.Technical Assistance

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	16	Number of simplification measures implemented	Simplification measures			
S	16	Number of simplification measures implemented	Simplification measures			
F	17	Number of project development support activities	Events and activities			
S	17	Number of project development support activities	Events and activities			
F	18	Number of information and communication activities	Information and communication measures			
S	18	Number of information and communication activities	Information and communication measures			
F	24	Number of employees (full-time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	full-time equivalents			
S	24	Number of employees (full-time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	full-time equivalents			

(1)	ID	Indicator		2015	2014
F	16	Number of simplification measures implemented			
S	16	Number of simplification measures implemented			
F	17	Number of project development support activities			
S	17	Number of project development support activities			
F	18	Number of information and communication activities			
S	18	Number of information and communication activities			
F	24	Number of employees (full-time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance			
S	24	Number of employees (full-time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance			

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance
Specific objective	5 - Leaner Programme management and more effective Programme implementation

Table 1: Result indicators - 5.5

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
99	Not applicable because the support to TA does not exceed 15 MEUR. See Priority Axis 5 "result sought".	N/A			0.00			

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
99	Not applicable because the support to TA does not exceed 15 MEUR. See Priority Axis 5 "result sought".				

3.3 Table 3: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018 total	Final target (2023) total	2016	Observations
1	O	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	6.00	32.00	0.00	
1	O	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	3.00	16.00	0.00	
1	F	1	Total certified expenditure for Priority Axis 1 (ERDF + national contribution)	EUR	3,267,506.00	21,783,372.00	39,532.00	
2	O	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	6.00	32.00	0.00	
2	O	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Enterprises	3.00	16.00	0.00	
2	F	2	Total certified expenditure for Priority Axis 2 (ERDF + national contribution)	EUR	3,267,506.00	21,783,372.00	176,412.00	
3	O	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households	50.00	250.00	0.00	
3	F	3	Total certified expenditure for Priority Axis 3 (ERDF + national contribution)	EUR	2,178,337.00	14,522,247.00	300,730.00	
4	O	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	2.00	11.00	0.00	
4	F	5	Total certified expenditure for Priority Axis 4 (ERDF + national contribution)	EUR	2,178,337.00	14,522,247.00	86,952.00	
4	O	4	Number of organisations introducing a decision-making tool or governance concept facilitating sustainable environmental management	Organisations	4.00	22.00	0.00	

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2015	2014
1	O	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises		
1	O	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises		
1	F	1	Total certified expenditure for Priority Axis 1 (ERDF + national contribution)	EUR		
2	O	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises		
2	O	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Enterprises		
2	F	2	Total certified expenditure for Priority Axis 2 (ERDF + national contribution)	EUR		
3	O	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households		
3	F	3	Total certified expenditure for Priority Axis 3 (ERDF + national contribution)	EUR		
4	O	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations		
4	F	5	Total certified expenditure for Priority Axis 4 (ERDF + national contribution)	EUR		
4	O	4	Number of organisations introducing a decision-making tool or governance concept facilitating sustainable environmental management	Organisations		

3.4. Financial data

Table 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level

As set out in Table 1 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and table 16 of model for cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal

Priority axis	Fund	Calculation basis	Total funding	Co-financing rate	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries	Number of operations selected
1	ERDF	Total	21,783,372.00	65.00	12,244,515.10	56.21%	12,049,042.61	39,532.49	0.18%	19
2	ERDF	Total	21,783,372.00	65.00	9,049,280.52	41.54%	8,637,422.29	176,412.12	0.81%	13
3	ERDF	Total	14,522,247.00	65.00	3,397,990.40	23.40%	3,288,107.66	300,730.00	2.07%	9
4	ERDF	Total	14,522,247.00	65.00	2,783,763.31	19.17%	2,783,763.31	86,952.67	0.60%	9
5	ERDF	Total	6,025,186.00	50.00	6,025,186.00	100.00%	6,025,186.00	211,318.16	3.51%	3
Total	ERDF		78,636,424.00	63.85	33,500,735.33	42.60%	32,783,521.87	814,945.44	1.04%	53
Grand total			78,636,424.00	63.85	33,500,735.33	42.60%	32,783,521.87	814,945.44	1.04%	53

Where applicable, the use of any contribution from third countries participating in the cooperation programme should be provided (for example IPA and ENI, Norway, Switzerland)

In addition to the ERDF financing in table 4, the non-member state contribution to the programme is 9 042 160 Euro, including 1 038 366 Euro for Technical Assistance. The budgeted ERDF equivalent funding to priority Axes 1-4 is 8 003 794 Euro, of which a total of 4 979 709 Euro or 62,2% has been committed by end of 2016, which is a significantly higher commitment rate than for the ERDF funding. The distribution of ERDF equivalent funding between non-member states and priority axis is described below (all figures in Euro):

Norwegian ERDF equivalent funding:

Priority axis 1: 1 776 586

Priority axis 2: 623 573

Priority axis 3: 158 781

Priority axis 4: 435 499

TOTAL: 2 994 439 Euro

The intervention rate for Norwegian partners is 50%.

Icelandic ERDF equivalent funding:

Priority axis 1: 603 361

Priority axis 2: 268 823

Priority axis 3: 3 133

Priority axis 4: 73 876

TOTAL: 949 193

The intervention rate for Icelandic partners is 60%.

Faroese ERDF equivalent funding:

Priority axis 1: 38 167

Priority axis 2: 195 087

Priority axis 3: 3 178

Priority axis 4:

TOTAL: 236 432

The intervention rate for Faroese partners is 65%.

Greenlandic ERDF equivalent funding:

Priority axis 1:

Priority axis 2: 567 984
Priority axis 3: 107 042
Priority axis 4: 124 619
TOTAL: 799 645

The intervention rate for Greenlandic partners is 65%.

The total ERDF equivalent funding from non-member states is distributed across the priority axis according to the below:

Priority axis 1: 2 418 114
Priority axis 2: 1 655 467
Priority axis 3: 272 134
Priority axis 4: 633 994

Table 5: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention

As set out in Table 2 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and tables 6-9 of Model for cooperation programmes

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1	ERDF	055	01	07	07	01	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	12	UKM6	2,299,372.31	2,283,722.31	0.00	1
1	ERDF	055	01	07	07	01	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	20	SE33	1,476,227.69	1,476,227.69	0.00	1
1	ERDF	055	01	07	07	01	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	21	UKM6	45,000.00	45,000.00	0.00	1
1	ERDF	062	01	07	07	01	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	02	IS	560,225.61	489,273.61	0.00	1
1	ERDF	062	01	07	07	01	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	02	NO07	175,787.69	175,787.69	0.00	1
1	ERDF	062	01	07	07	01	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	11	FI1D	83,705.80	81,214.55	0.00	2
1	ERDF	062	01	07	07	01	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	15	UKM6	27,143.08	27,143.08	0.00	1
1	ERDF	063	01	07	07	01	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	03	IS	237,632.31	237,632.31	39,532.49	1
1	ERDF	063	01	07	07	01	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	24	UKN0	1,548,584.62	1,548,584.62	0.00	1
1	ERDF	065	01	07	07	01	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	24	FI1	1,661,866.15	1,557,486.91	0.00	1
1	ERDF	081	01	07	07	01	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	13	FI1D	39,996.54	39,996.54	0.00	1
1	ERDF	081	01	07	07	01	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	18	IE01	1,107,656.62	1,107,656.62	0.00	1
1	ERDF	081	01	07	07	01	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	20	FI1D	44,993.85	44,993.85	0.00	1
1	ERDF	081	01	07	07	01	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	20	IE02	22,366.15	20,366.15	0.00	1
1	ERDF	081	01	07	07	01	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	20	NO07	1,264,320.57	1,264,320.57	0.00	1
1	ERDF	081	01	07	07	01	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	20	SE33	1,535,412.31	1,535,412.31	0.00	1
1	ERDF	081	01	07	07	01	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	20	UKN0	44,993.03	44,993.03	0.00	1
1	ERDF	081	01	07	07	01	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	21	FI193	69,230.77	69,230.77	0.00	1
2	ERDF												
2	ERDF	062	01	07	07	03	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	22	UKM6	913,338.46	765,544.49	0.00	1
2	ERDF	063	01	07	07	03	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	23	NO05	920,844.58	920,844.58	31,442.50	1
2	ERDF	063	01	07	07	03	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	23	SE33	30,463.49	30,463.49	0.00	1
2	ERDF	066	01	07	07	03	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	15	FI193	45,000.00	45,000.00	0.00	1
2	ERDF	066	01	07	07	03	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	15	FI1D	16,756.38	16,756.38	0.00	1
2	ERDF	066	01	07	07	03	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	15	IE02	1,101,649.23	938,219.97	0.00	1
2	ERDF	066	01	07	07	03	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	15	UKM6	1,277,076.92	1,277,076.92	0.00	1
2	ERDF	066	01	07	07	03	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	23	IE01	1,847,112.31	1,847,112.31	103,288.08	1
2	ERDF	067	01	07	07	03	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	21	FI	1,397,618.46	1,397,618.46	0.00	1
2	ERDF	067	01	07	07	03	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	21	IE01	40,788.38	40,788.38	0.00	1
2	ERDF	067	01	07	07	03	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	24	IE01	1,371,950.77	1,271,315.77	0.00	1
2	ERDF	067	01	07	07	03	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	24	SE33	45,000.00	45,000.00	0.00	1

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
2	ERDF	073	01	07	07	03	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	21	UKN0	41,681.54	41,681.54	41,681.54	1
3	ERDF												
3	ERDF	013	01	07	07	01	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	22	FI1D1	1,456,297.94	1,456,297.94	0.00	1
3	ERDF	013	01	07	07	04	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	22	FI193	44,658.88	44,658.88	0.00	1
3	ERDF	013	01	07	07	04	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	22	FI1D	44,544.08	44,544.08	44,544.06	1
3	ERDF	013	01	07	07	04	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	22	IE02	37,546.95	37,546.95	0.00	1
3	ERDF	013	01	07	07	04	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	22	UKN0	26,340.60	26,340.60	0.00	1
3	ERDF	013	01	07	07	04	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	24	FI193	34,250.23	34,250.23	0.00	1
3	ERDF	014	01	07	07	04	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	10	UKM2	1,680,044.03	1,571,661.29	256,185.94	1
3	ERDF	014	01	07	07	04	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	22	FI193	29,307.69	27,807.69	0.00	1
3	ERDF	014	01	07	07	04	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	22	FI1D	45,000.00	45,000.00	0.00	1
4	ERDF												
4	ERDF	085	01	07	07	06	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	11	UKM6	45,000.00	45,000.00	0.00	1
4	ERDF	085	01	07	07	06	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	22	FI193	22,786.65	22,786.65	0.00	1
4	ERDF	085	01	07	07	06	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	23	UKN0	1,311,998.46	1,311,998.46	86,952.67	1
4	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	11	FI1D	33,024.69	33,024.69	0.00	1
4	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	18	FI1D	27,877.88	27,877.88	0.00	1
4	ERDF	088	01	07	07	06	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	22	SE110	1,277,101.54	1,277,101.54	0.00	1
4	ERDF	095	01	07	07	06	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	15	NO05	3,200.71	3,200.71	0.00	1
4	ERDF	095	01	07	07	06	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	22	SE33	34,600.00	34,600.00	0.00	1
4	ERDF	095	01	07	07	06	08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	22	UKM2	28,173.38	28,173.38	0.00	1
5	ERDF												
5	ERDF	121	01	07	07		08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	18	SE33	5,151,536.00	5,151,536.00	180,677.10	1
5	ERDF	122	01	07	07		08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	18	SE33	120,504.00	120,504.00	4,226.37	1
5	ERDF	123	01	07	07		08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08, 08	18	SE33	753,146.00	753,146.00	26,414.69	1

Table 6: Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area

1. Operation (2)	2. The amount of ERDF support(1) envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations	3. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)	4. Eligible expenditure of ERDF support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority	5. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)
Adapt	18,312.70	0.04%	0.00	
CEREAL	13,296.84	0.03%	1,472.22	0.00%
Circular Ocean	198,344.00	0.40%	0.00	
Connected North	9,673.95	0.02%	0.00	
Craft Reach	147,793.91	0.29%	13,116.43	0.03%
Drifting Apart	238,299.75	0.47%	15,536.02	0.03%
FREED	260,834.00	0.52%	0.00	
Making it work	201,032.00	0.40%	0.00	
NEES2	6,463.59	0.01%	0.00	
Option	5,838.91	0.01%	0.00	
Pre-Lighthouse	4,903.56	0.01%	7,543.94	0.02%
ReewiseVillage	3,900.00	0.01%	0.00	
RemoAge	92,508.00	0.18%	0.00	
Spara2020	172,168.00	0.34%	0.00	
WaterPro	2,925.00	0.01%	0.00	

(1) ERDF support is the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

(2) In accordance with and subject to ceilings set out Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

There have been no evaluations performed during the period.

5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

(a) Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken

The Monitoring Committee decided that the third call should open only for applications addressing priorities 3 & 4 in order to develop a more even distribution across the four Priority Axes.

Out of the 25 main projects approved by the Monitoring Committee, 10 were within Axis 1 (Innovation) and 7 projects in Axis 2 (Entrepreneurship), 3 projects in Axis 3 (Energy) and 5 projects in Axis 4 (Sustainability).

Allied to the advanced state of the programme implementation, some parts of the eMS only arrived during 2016 and there has been an intense period by the programming bodies to implement and operationalize by the end of 2016. A number of aspects were un-foreseen and could only be investigated through testing, and actually taking the system into use afterwards. Participating in Interacts core user group and receiving the manual in retrospect has meant that some detailed functions needed to be learnt through “undertaking” the challenge. One effect of the parallel development of the system was that there were some delays in the contracting of projects in 2016 due to the fact that eMS was for the first time used for the contracting.

Continuous updating of the guidance materials and the eMS templates has been based on user experiences such as applicants, lead partners, partners, FLC and programme staff. To assist applicants and project managers a Helpdesk function has been utilised continuously; especially during the start-up phase of approved projects. The Helpdesk has proved to be a good solution to problems related to the use of eMS. For the first-time project applicants that applied for funding in the third call during 2016 could enter their applications in eMS.

The high commitment rate for the ERDF equivalent funding from non-member states is a concern for the programme since this funding might be fully committed at a relatively early stage of programme implementation. In 2017 the Monitoring Committee will need to decide to what extent the possibilities given by the 20% geographical flexibility rule should be used in such a situation.

The result of the United Kingdom referendum caused uncertainty both for projects and the programme administration. The exact consequences of Brexit for the Programme and for UK partners were unclear during 2016. The programme administration communication to project partners has been that the applicable programme rules shall apply and approved projects with UK partners should continue as planned. Due to the uncertainty, it was decided to prolong the fourth call deadline by two months until November 30th 2016. In light of the reassuring statements from the UK Treasury in August that any funding allocated to EU projects contracted before the Autumn Statement would be guaranteed by the UK government, it was decided that there should not be any further instructions of prolonging of the deadline. In a new statement from October 3rd, the UK Chancellor extended the guarantee to the point at which the UK departs the EU for projects meeting certain conditions.

Besides the above mentioned, no problems have been identified in relation to the performance of the programme and expected results. The audit authority has not highlighted any serious problems in conjunction to their procedures according to article 124.2 in EU regulation 1303/2014.

(b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1. An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate.

Currently, progress being made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment. The number of projects and allocation of funds in 2016 is at a satisfactory level. The quality of applications is considered to be good and the projects are expected to contribute to the programme targets. However, in autumn 2016 systemic underspending by 1st and 2nd call projects was noted by the Joint Secretariat. To address project underspending a “de-commitment” exercise is planned for Spring 2017 to gauge the depth of the underspending and to take remedial action with projects.

6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

A citizen's summary of the contents of the annual and the final implementation reports shall be made public and uploaded as a separate file in the form of annex to the annual and the final implementation report

You can upload/find the Citizen's summary under General > Documents

7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)

8. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (ARTICLE 101(H) AND ARTICLE 111(3) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013)

8.1. Major projects

Table 7: Major projects

Project	CCI	Status of MP	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/submission date	Date of tacit agreement/ approval by Commission	Planned start of implementation	Planned completion date	Priority Axis/ Investment priorities	Current state of realisation — financial progress (% of expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation — physical progress Main implementation stage of the project	Main outputs	Date of signature of first works contract (1)	Observations
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(1) In the case of operations implemented under PPP structures the signing of the PPP contract between the public body and the private sector body (Article 102(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

Significant problems encountered in implementing major projects and measures taken to overcome them

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Any change planned in the list of major projects in the cooperation programme

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8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

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Table 8: Joint action plans (JAP)

Title of the JAP	CCI	Stage of implementation of JAP	Total eligible costs	Total public support	OP contribution to JAP	Priority axis	Type of JAP	[Planned] submission to the Commission	[Planned] start of implementation	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results	Total eligible expenditure certified to the Commission	Observations
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Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

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9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

9.1 Information in Part A and achieving the objectives of the programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axis	1 - Using Innovation to Maintain and Develop Robust and Competitive Communities
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Priority axis	2 - Promoting Entrepreneurship to Realise the Potential of the Programme Area's Competitive Advantage
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Priority axis	3 - Fostering Energy-Secure Communities through Promotion of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
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Priority axis	4 - Protecting, promoting and developing cultural and natural heritage
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Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance
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9.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations

On a programme body level, horizontal principles are practiced for example by the Joint Programme Secretariat and Managing Authority in their personnel profile demonstrating promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination. On the Monitoring Committee level, programme partner countries have a specific remit to ensure equal representation of men and women.

On a project level, as guidance to approved projects, the NPA Programme manual outlines for Lead partners and partners their expectation regarding horizontal principles and their incorporation at all stages, design, and delivery through to evaluation of their projects life. The assessment of specific actions are conducted by JTS Desk officers through periodic project progress reports, and determination is made, if expectations are being met as approved by the Monitoring Committee.

In general, actions taken by approved projects are indicative of the Creative momentum project as explained in sections 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4. More specifically, all projects are expected to approach implementing horizontal principles through their target groups, such as interest groups & general public, and in their partner organizations.

Project example - Creative Momentum

Promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination

In the Priority 2, the Creative Momentum (CM) project lists all partners are equal opportunity employers, which is typical of all approved NPA projects. All employees recruited to work under the CM project were selected under equal opportunities policies.

As an example of inclusion in the project, the project website “My CreativeEdge.eu” lists membership as 60:40 male:female, significantly higher than average female entrepreneurship rates.

CM actively continues to promote high levels of involvement from female creative entrepreneurs.

Equal opportunity and non-discrimination

The selection of participants in Creative Momentum (CM) activities were conducted through open calls for applications. The selection criteria for all open calls promote non-discrimination & equal opportunity. Selection has been solely based on transparent selection criteria, clearly advertised to applicants in advance.

The project website “MyCreativeEdge.eu” has adhered to website accessibility guidelines for people with disabilities and endeavour to conform to level Double-A of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0.

All promotion relating to activities for CM comply with the National/Regional Equality scheme.

9.3.Sustainable development (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on sustainable development, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of the actions taken to promote sustainable development in accordance with that Article

The programme manual gives guidance to applicants and project partners on how to integrate the aspect of sustainable development into operations. Some of the projects implemented in the NPA programme have a direct aim to promote sustainability but all projects are obliged to consider sustainability as a horizontal theme, even though this is not the main objective of the project.

Project example - **Creative Momentum**

Sustainable development

A large proportion of the project's activities have been implemented online, through Skype con-calls, e-mail, social media, video-conferencing, which has reduced the amount of travel involved in implementing the project & reduced printed papers.

A policy to overlapping transnational events as much as possible to maximise the return on any one trip e.g. coinciding Creative Hotspots and Creative Exchanges with Operational Management Team meetings, has been considered in scheduling.

When travelling inside partner regions, most partners uses public transport (bus and train. At times when travel was by car and trips are planned to make as many meetings during the journey as possible.

9.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Calculated amount of support to be used for climate change objectives based on the cumulative financial data by category of intervention in Table 7

Priority axis	Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)
1	1,080,213.01	7.63%
3	2,208,693.87	23.40%
4	398,330.82	4.22%
Total	3,687,237.70	7.34%

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9.5 Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 1, (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the role of partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, including involvement of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme

Involvement of partners was a central component through the development of the Cooperation Programme and the emphasis has been placed on ensuring both national and regional –level participation in the drafting process.

The involvement of the partners in the assessment, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the operational programme covers various stages from the assessment of projects by Regional Advisory Groups (RAG), which are typically experts (public and private sector) from a thematic field addressed by the NPA. RAG's have been involved in a consultation phase of determining the Terms of References for the 4th call in 2016.

At the implementation stage, mainly programme bodies: Programme Joint Secretariat, Managing Authority and to some extent Regional Contact Points are involved.

At the monitoring and evaluation stage, the Monitoring Committee as “partners” are typically public servants from National and regional bodies from the 9 programme partner countries. Observers on the Monitoring Committee come from Non-Governmental Organisations such as the Indigenous People’s Secretariat. Besides that, there is a permanent observer from Russia in the Monitoring Committee.

Divided into the three geographical zones, the partners are very well distributed across the programme area; 61 partners in Finland, Sweden and Norway, 52 partners in Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland and 20 partners in Greenland, Iceland and Faroe Islands, and other countries 9. Compared to the geographical distribution of Lead Partners, the distribution between the three zones is more uneven.

10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013

10.1 Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations

An evaluation plan has been approved by the Monitoring Committee. A procurement of the evaluation shall start in 2017 and the evaluation shall be carried out in 2018.

10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

The NPA Communication Strategy was adopted by the Monitoring Committee in June 2015. In accordance with the strategy, an Information Action plan is developed annually, which is reviewed and presented to the Monitoring Committee.

The NPA 2014-2020 was launched at a conference in September 2014 in Scotland, prior to its approval in December.

The year 2015 was the first full implementation year of the NPA 2014-2020. Many activities were focused on setting up the framework for the communication strategy implementation.

The development of an electronic monitoring system (eMS) has demanded a significant share of the communication manager's time. For this reason, communication activities needed to be down prioritised. Thus, some activities planned for 2015-2016 were delayed.

Nevertheless, 2016 was a very positive year for the profile of the Programme, mainly because the Circular Ocean project received the 2016 RegioStars public choice award.

The year 2016 also saw the start of the more hands-on collaboration with other Arctic EU programmes. The NPA has a coordinating role, mandated by the EU Joint Arctic Communication from April 2016. In addition, the NPA participated in the preparations of the Arctic Stakeholder Forum.

Main communication measures:

Website, www.interreg-npa.eu

The development of the new website started in January 2015, replacing an interim website on Facebook. It was launched in September, just ahead of the annual event. In December, a newsletter feature was added. The approved project section of the website was added in 2016.

The newest feature is the project mini websites. The programme provides each project with a templated website for them to populate with information about outputs, news and events. This means that projects have an online presence from the start in line with the publicity requirements.

Visual identity

- Business cards, stationary, and digital templates were developed.
- The development of a visual identity guide for the programme, RCPs and projects has suffered delays. This guide is to become part of the communication toolkit for projects. In addition, RCPs asked for a roll-up display, which was produced and distributed to them.

- Poster templates for projects: the development of the template has suffered delays. However, projects were provided with instructions for the poster as part of the Programme Manual.

Major communication activities:

- **NPA Programme Launch Event 2014: Cool North, 30th September-1st October, Strathpeffer, Scotland**

The NPA was formally launched at this conference, with the opening of the First Call for project applications. In addition, Cool North celebrated the outcomes of the NPP 2007-2013, with the presentation of an achievements report.

The conference was attended by more than 150 people. Participants were welcomed by Councillor Drew Hendry, Leader of the Highland Council. DG Regio director, Ms Lena Andersson-Pench held a keynote speech about the result focus of the 2014-2020 period.

The final key note address was delivered by Mr Frank Gaskell from Integritas Liaison, who described the risk and opportunities of the rapid developments in the Arctic and neighbouring areas.

- **Annual event 2015: State of the Region, 30th September, Kuopio, Finland**

Approx. 100 participants gathered for the second annual conference. The purpose of the conference was to provide an update on recent developments in the NPA programme area as well as Arctic cooperation.

Among the main speakers were region mayor Mr Jussi Huttunen, Ms Joanna Kiryllo from the European Commission, and Mr Aleksi Härkönen, Finland's Ambassador for Arctic Affairs, Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

- **Annual event 2016: Arctic Boost -Economic Development for the Peoples in the Arctic, 28th September, Akureyri, Iceland**

The NPA Annual Event 2016 focused on how cooperation programmes can contribute to regional development in the Arctic.

The event gathered approximately 95 participants from projects and other programmes, international organisations and stakeholders working with economic development in the Arctic.

The conference included speeches by the Icelandic Minister for Regional Development, Mr Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson, and Mr Kim Kuivalainen from the European External Action Service. Projects illustrated concrete examples of Arctic development. Other speakers were Mr Igor Kapyrin from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ms Anu Fredrikson, Director of the Arctic Economic Council Secretariat.

A panel discussion included representatives from the Arctic Council, Arctic Economic Council,

International Barents Secretariat, Northern Dimension (NDPHS), Nordregio and the OECD. In addition, the ENI Kolarctic cross-border programme was represented.

A separate workshop about the Arctic cross-programme collaboration took place, organised jointly with the other Arctic programmes.

Harmonised Interreg branding

So far, the main alignment with the harmonised branding is the *interreg-npa.eu* domain for the website and e-mail addresses. Otherwise, no active inclusion of the Interreg logo has taken place, mainly because the Interreg branding arrived later than the formatting of the NPA Cooperation Programme. It is envisaged that a link to the Interreg portal (once available) will be added to the website, together with the Interreg logo. In addition, an ongoing assessment takes place to what degree communication measures can be aligned with the harmonised branding. The NPA participates in meetings and online discussions facilitated by INTERACT.

Publications

- The draft Cooperation Programme was published for the programme launch in September 2014. After EC approval, the document was reprinted and published in February 2016.
- NPA Fact Sheet: the fact sheet was first published in September 2014, and it has been updated 2-3 times a year.
- NPP Project Outcomes Database: the database has been integrated into the NPA website. The planned update of the database has suffered delays, but is planned for 2017.

Conclusion and next steps

The period 2014-2016 focused on putting the programme communication measures in place. Mainly due to the development of the eMS, some activities planned for this period have suffered delays.

Nevertheless, the programme enjoyed significant visibility, because of the RegioStars Award 2016, and the coordinating role in the Arctic collaboration. It can be concluded that the programme has made important steps towards the main objective of the communication strategy: *To raise awareness about the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme 2014-2020, its objectives and its outputs by engaging with (potential) beneficiaries, relevant stakeholders and the public, thereby facilitating the achievement of the changes sought by the programme.*

As the programme reaches the peak of its implementation during 2017-2018, the most important next steps are to evaluate and fine-tune the communication measures, and to empower projects to communicate about their results.

11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2 (A), (B), (C) AND (F), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013)

11.1. Progress in the implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including integrated territorial investments, sustainable urban development, and community led local development under the cooperation programme

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11.2 Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the ERDF

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11.3 Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate)

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, recital 19, article 8(3)(d) on the "Content, adoption and amendment of cooperation programmes" and article 14(4) 2nd subparagraph (c) "Implementation reports", this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)
- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)
- EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)
- Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy (ATLSBS)

Objective(s), policy area(s) and horizontal action(s) that the programme is relevant to:

	Objectives
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - Save the Sea
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connect the Region
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Increase Prosperity
	Policy areas
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.1 - Bioeconomy
<input type="checkbox"/>	4.2 - Culture
<input type="checkbox"/>	4.3 - Education
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.4 - Energy
<input type="checkbox"/>	4.5 - Hazards
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.6 - Health
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.7 - Innovation
<input type="checkbox"/>	4.8 - Nutri
<input type="checkbox"/>	4.9 - Safe
<input type="checkbox"/>	4.10 - Secure
<input type="checkbox"/>	4.11 - Ship
<input type="checkbox"/>	4.12 - Tourism
<input type="checkbox"/>	4.13 - Transport
	Horizontal actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5.1 - Capacity
<input type="checkbox"/>	5.2 - Climate
<input type="checkbox"/>	5.3 - Neighbours
<input type="checkbox"/>	5.4 - Spatial planning

Actions or mechanisms used to better link the programme with the EUSBSR

A. Are macro-regional coordinators (mainly National Coordinators, Policy Area Coordinators, Horizontal Action Coordinators, or members of the Steering Committees/Coordination Groups) participating in the Monitoring Committee of the programme?

Yes No

B. In selection criteria, have extra points been attributed to specific measures supporting the EUSBSR?

Yes No

C. Has the programme invested EU funds in the EUSBSR?

Yes No

Does your programme plan to invest in the EUSBSR in the future? Please elaborate (1 specific sentence)

No investments planned beyond the funds allocated to projects within the programme, which are in line with the goals of the strategy.

D. Obtained results in relation to the EUSBSR (n.a. for 2016)

E. Does the programme address the EUSBSR sub-objectives (with corresponding to specific targets and indicators) as stated in the "EUSBSR Action Plan"? (Please specify the target and the indicator)

The NPA addresses partly the sub-objectives "improved global competitiveness of the Baltic Sea region" and "Climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management".

Priority(s) and objective(s) that the programme is relevant to:

	Priority	Objective
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Promote entrepreneurship and innovation	1.1 - Sharing knowledge between higher education organisations, companies and research centers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Promote entrepreneurship and innovation	1.2 - Enhancement of competitiveness and innovation capacities in the maritime economy of the Atlantic area
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - Promote entrepreneurship and innovation	1.3 - Fostering adaptation and diversification of economic activities by promoting the potential of the Atlantic area
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment	2.1 - Improving maritime safety and security
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment	2.2 - Exploring and protecting marine waters and coastal zones
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment	2.3 - Sustainable management of marine resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment	2.4 - Exploitation of the renewable energy potential of the Atlantic area's marine and coastal environment
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 - Improve accessibility and connectivity	3.1 - Promoting cooperation between ports
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 - Create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development	4.1 - Fostering better knowledge of social challenges in the Atlantic area
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development	4.2 - Preserving and promoting the Atlantic's cultural heritage

Actions or mechanisms used to better link the programme with the Atlantic SBS

A. Are the Sea Basin Strategic coordinators (mainly National Coordinators, Priority Area Coordinators or members, and/or Objective coordinators or members) participating in the Monitoring Committee of the programme?

Yes No

B. In selection criteria, have extra points been attributed to specific measures supporting the ATLSBS?

Yes No

C. Has the programme invested EU funds in the ATLSBS?

Yes No

Does your programme plan to invest in the EUSAIR in the future? Please elaborate (1 specific sentence)

No investments planned beyond the funds allocated to projects within the programme, which are in line with the goals of the strategy.

D. Obtained results in relation to the ATLSBS (n.a. for 2016)

11.4 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation

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13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Information and assessment of the programme contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

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**14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN
— PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)**

Where the assessment of progress made with regard to the milestones and targets set out in the performance framework demonstrates that certain milestones and targets have not been achieved, Member States should outline the underlying reasons for failure to achieve these milestones in the report of 2019 (for milestones) and in the final implementation report (for targets).

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Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
NPA Citizens summary	Citizens' summary	19-Jun-2017		Ares(2017)3141804	NPA Citizens summary	22-Jun-2017	nbejenny

Latest validation results

Severity	Code	Message
Info		Implementation report version has been validated